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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Yasutomo YAMAMOTO, et al.

Serial No.: 10/683,688

Filed: October 9, 2003

For: STORAGE SYSTEM THAT IS CONNECTED TO EXTERNAL STORAGE

Art Unit: 2818

Examiner: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: 9917

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 11, 2005
Date of Deposit

Kimberly Yee
Name

Kimberly Yee 01/11/05
Signature Date

STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This application was filed on October 9, 2003 and receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was acknowledged in the Filing Receipt dated January 7, 2004. The last correspondence from the Patent Office was a Notice of Publication of Application, which we received on January 3, 2005. However, we are still waiting for a first Office Action.

Please send the undersigned a Status Report on this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 11, 2005

By: _____
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